

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for facilitating online payment transactions between
5 participants in a network-based transaction facility are described. In one
embodiment, user interface information is communicated to a first participant via a
communications network. The user interface information identifies various payment
instruments available for processing online payment transactions in the network-
based transaction facility. Further, payment option information is received from the
10 first participant via the communications network. The payment option information
indicates the willingness of the first participant to accept a payment from a second
participant via one or more of the various payment instruments. This payment
option information is passed to the second participant via the communications
network. Afterwards, personal billing information is accepted from the second
15 participant via the communications network to facilitate an online payment
transaction between the first participant and the second participant. The personal
billing information concerns a payment instrument selected by the second
participant from the payment instruments specified by the first participant.